

RALEIGH, N. C.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 1873.

There was in the City one Sosis, infamous for his insolence and villainy, who thought the perfection of Liberty was licentiousness of Speech.—PLUTARCH.

Another Great Man Gone.

On Wednesday December 3, 1873, Honorable ALFRED DOCKERY died at his home in Richmond county. Born December 11th, 1797, he was seventy-six years old, wanting but eight days.

He came to Raleigh as a member of the House of Commons as early as 1822, and has been before the public as a leading public man of the State ever since.

He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1835. Came to the State Senate in 1836, serving continuously until 1844, when he was elected to Congress for one term, declining re-election; but, he was again returned to Congress in 1851.

The great gubernatorial campaign of 1853 will be long remembered. In that great contest General Dockery the "old Pee Dee Wagoner" led the Whigs against Bragg the standard bearer of the Democracy, the latter winning by only some two thousand votes.

Since the close of the war General Dockery has co-operated with the Republican party, and although filling some important public stations, his name and character have never suffered at the hands of a generally indiscriminating public. In the language of an old man who knew him intimately, long and well, "he was as honest a man as God ever made."

Alfred Dockery was a self-made man. He was known in political nomenclature as the "old Pee Dee Wagoner." Coming up from the masses of the people he was a representative man of the people—the poor man's friend—the working-man's model, and a people's beautiful of a great, good public man.

Living to a ripe old age, if his measure of ambition was not quite filled, he passed away with that full and pleasant experience that, virtue, which he pre-eminently possessed of all our public men, has its own reward.

Raleigh Board of Trade.

This Board of Trade has made Raleigh a cotton market, equal to any in the country, if not better than any other of the same distance from New York.

Where 7,000 bales were sold before its existence there are now 30,000. Farmers obtain better prices, and the community selling in Raleigh derive an advantage from this Board of more than a hundred thousand dollars every year.

Any legislation that tends to embarrass this Board, or impair the system it has established, in the estimation of the Northern and European markets, will be ruinous to the farmers.

Let there be no legislation on the subject until a better reason can be given for it than a simple desire on the part of the "Granges." Secret societies have failed in politics.—They cannot hope for a better success in business. They have no business to ask for legislation affecting and hampering business, and the farming and commercial interests of the country cannot submit to it.

Not Behind Like That.

The Wilmington *Star* of last Saturday gives currency to the foolish rumor that Hon. W. A. Smith would leave here on that day in company with Geo. L. Mabson, Esq., an applicant for Post-Master at Wilmington.

The absurdity of the rumor consisted in the statement that Major Smith was at home a week after the Congress assembled. He was promptly on hand the first day, and will be heard from, the *Star* may depend upon it.

LETTER from Alumnus, on the University will appear hereafter.

Work for Congress.

The new Congress which met at Washington on the 1st inst., has much work of very great importance to perform—work that is needful to be carefully and speedily considered and accomplished, and of decidedly more interest to the country than the fixing of the amount of pay of its members.

The Cuban question is one that should not be neglected. The sentiment of the American people, without regard to sectional lines or party feeling, is such as to demand that the Senate and House of Representatives will deal with that question in a bold, frank and patriotic spirit. The American people have stood tamely by and looked upon the butcheries of struggling patriots, battling for freedom, until they can no longer remain idle spectators, while brave men are sacrificing their lives and fiends in human shape are steeping their hands in the blood of those who have shown themselves, by their valor and fortitude, worthy of freedom. If Spain will not acknowledge the independence of Cuba otherwise, it is the duty of the United States to recognize it, and to make an armed intervention to the end of its maintenance. In negotiating for reparation of the injury and diplomatising for apology for the insult to the United States, inflicted by the capture of the *Virginius* and the massacre of its officers, crew and passengers, the administration has but carried out its settled policy of peace. We hope that Congress may inaugurate some measure that will authorize the administration to secure independence for Cuba through peaceable means, if possible; but by forcible means, if necessary. Let the houses of Congress act at once; and act as becomes the representatives of a free and humane people.

The financial question is one of superlative importance; and legislation of a salutary and comprehensive nature should be immediately instituted. It would be well for Congress to pay profound respect to the suggestions contained in the President's Message, and especially that which points out the great danger menacing the commerce of the country through the provisions of the law regulating "involuntary bankruptcy." We are not quite sure that the business of the country would not be materially benefitted by an increased duty on foreign goods imported into the country; and a simplification of the machinery for collection and a decrease in the amount of taxation derived from the Internal Revenue system. This matter should be a subject of serious consideration.

Another thing requires attention, if reports recently prevalent are to be credited: The Navy of the United States should be strengthened, and indeed made equal in every respect to that of any nation of the earth. We have a larger extent of coast, liable to and vulnerable to attack, than any country on the face of the globe. We have a commerce to be protected that equals that of any power whose flag traverses the seas. Yet it is stated that our Navy is the weakest in the world. This should not be so; and now in time of peace we should prepare for war which may come at any moment. It is by no means certain that Spain can enforce its authority upon the Spanish volunteers in Cuba; and, if not, we may soon find need for a first class Navy.

Let the houses of Congress look to these matters just now, and time enough will come to them to fix upon the amount of their salaries, and to repudiate or endorse the back pay action of their predecessors.

APPOINTMENTS.—His Excellency Gov. Caldwell has appointed A. R. McDonald, Esq. of Monroe county Solicitor of the 5th judicial district in place of Neill McKay, Esq. resigned. Gen'l. Rufus Barringer, has been appointed Solicitor for the 9th dist. in place of Hon. W. P. Bynum, promoted to Supreme Court Judge.

Resolution of Instruction to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

WHEREAS, The practical workings of the Internal Revenue laws of the United States in their present form are prejudicial to the best interests of the people in many localities in this State; and

WHEREAS, The vigorous efforts now being made by Revenue officers to enforce these laws are creating much discontent and confusion among the people; and

WHEREAS, The enforcement of the laws is not only arousing prejudice among our citizens, but is absolutely alienating the hearts of the people from the government itself; and

WHEREAS, The execution of such laws has not only been a fruitful source in producing the evil herein specified, but in various sections of the State has cost the government more than double the amount of the revenue derived from such source. Therefore be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress are hereby earnestly requested to use their utmost influence to have the aforesaid laws so modified as to render them less expensive to the government and less oppressive to the people of these United States.

Resolved further, That the Secretary of State is hereby directed to furnish each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress with a copy of these resolutions as soon as practicable.

Adopted by the General Assembly of North Carolina and ratified the 2d day of December, 1873.

J. L. ROBINSON,
Speaker House Representatives.
C. H. BROGDEN,
President of the Senate.

A true copy.

W. H. HOWERTON,
Secretary of State.

The above resolution was introduced by Mr. Blythe, of Henderson county, a Republican of the first water.

This resolution is understood to reflect the sentiments of the entire Republican party of the West. It is doubtful, even, if the office holders will object to it.

When the *Era* opened on the revenue system and service, it did so in obedience to that sentiment which has produced, through Mr. Blythe, the above expression, and the object of this paper was to secure for our people that relief and reform sought through this instruction to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

As has been said before, if that relief and measure of justice demanded cannot be obtained, then let the Internal Revenue system be abolished altogether.

Those gentlemen who have arraigned the *Era* and Hon. W. A. Smith, so indignantly, of late, are invited to a perusal of the resolution of Mr. Blythe.

The Speed of Falsehood.

It has been said that a lie will travel a league before truth gets on his boots.

This has been often exemplified, and it is pre-eminently true in the case of Hon. W. A. Smith and the resolution of Mr. Butler to seat the Pinchbeck set in Congress.

The *News* of this city stated that Mr. Smith, of this District, voted for the resolution. A friend of Mr. Smith, in this city, promptly wrote a note correcting the *News* and asking its publication. It was not published.

As an act of justice to our Representative the *Era* here makes the correction by producing extract of a letter from Mr. Smith, dated Washington, Dec. 3, 1873:—

"I suppose I played the deuce with the party by voting against Butler's resolution to admit the Pinchbeck set, which was supported by the Republicans in the bulk."

Now, whether Major Smith was expected by his party to vote for or against the resolution of General Butler, it is clear that he wishes it to be known that he voted against, and the *News* and all other papers misrepresenting him ought to make prompt reparation and correction.

A resolution has been introduced in the State Senate requesting our members of Congress to vote for a bill to refund the tax levied on cotton in the years 1865-66, and 67.

A Word or Two.

In a letter "to the Republicans of North Carolina" under the above head, and sent to the *Era* for publication, Granville S. Patterson, Esq., says:—

I hope the Republican delegates who will meet in Convention next Summer, in every county of the State will get out good men to represent them in the next General Assembly, for it seems some of those sent for the sessions of 1872-'73 have not kept the faith, and I want to begin to look out in time for some who will keep the faith.

Unfaithful Representatives will not do for the masses of the people, nor will such public servants impart new strength, or aid to maintain the supremacy of the Republican party in North Carolina.

The Republican party had given us a Constitution under which all good men were satisfied to live, but we find some of our Republican Senators and Representatives voting to amend that instrument in a way to impair much of its beauty and usefulness; and this too after many of them had declared from every stump that they would do nothing of the kind.

Having, therefore, forgotten their pledges to the people, I think it will be well enough for the people to forget them next Summer, when they assemble to nominate Representatives and put in the field candidates for the various county offices in the State.

Since the year 1868, the Republican party has lost eighteen thousand votes in this State, and I think it is due in great measure to putting inefficient men into office; and men who, as soon as they get office, lose their faith and betray their party.

The *Era* would remind Mr. Patterson, that, not only does the time approach for putting candidates again in the field, but the time has already arrived for putting a stop to personal wrangling and clique-fighting within the ranks of the Republican party in North Carolina. There has already been too much of this, and to this sort of disastrous warfare in the party may we attribute any loss of strength we have sustained since 1868.

That inefficient and unworthy men have sometimes been elevated to office no one doubts or denies, but the remedy for this is in the hands of the people themselves. And if any have betrayed their constituents, such deceived constituents are expected to look to the matter themselves.

But it is hardly fair to indulge in sweeping complaints of any kind of the Republicans of this Legislature. They have done more to defeat the plans, and thwart the designs of their opponents than any minority party has ever done in any Legislature within the history of North Carolina, and they deserve the highest praise and commendation at the hands of their constituents, individually and collectively, without exception.

The *Era* does not take issue with Mr. Patterson in a spirit of controversy, nor is this article a criticism on his letter, but cheerfully publishing his letter, the paper feels that justice requires that it say this much in defence of the Republican members of this Legislature, who have gone, and all, shown themselves equal to and true to the great trusts confided to them. They have doubtless made mistakes, and permitting these amendments to pass the *Era* has thought was a mistake under all the circumstances; but save perhaps fifteen or twenty Senators and Representatives, the balance of the Republican delegation were pledged to amend the Constitution in some shape or other, and the *Era* does not apprehend that any Representative has grievously outraged his immediate constituents by his votes on the Constitutional Amendments last Winter.

Mr. Patterson is evidently a good Republican, in no danger of forgetting the faith, and the *Era* would be glad to hear from him often on matters affecting the good of the Republican party in North Carolina.

The time approaches for work, and has arrived for healing dissensions in our party, and in this the *Era* would be glad of the aid of Mr. Patterson's vigorous pen.

The Pioneer and the Era.

The Asheville *Pioneer* of the 29th November, proceeds to copy from the *Era* an article stating that another military raid had been ordered for the South-Mountain section of Burke county, which action the *Era* at the time condemned and denounced.

The *Pioneer* had not heard of the intended movement, but the *Era* had, and from the best information since attainable, the inference is irresistible that the movement was really in serious contemplation, and it was believed to have been frustrated, not by the publication in the *Era*, but by the action and interference of Congressman Smith at Washington.

The *Pioneer* then goes on to indulge in some severe language toward Major Smith, calling him, among other things, "an irate fool." Such language is not only in bad taste, but not at all applicable to a gentleman who, in every sphere in which he has operated, has shown himself one of the foremost men of the State.

Toward those gentlemen who have come into the Republican party since 1868, the *Pioneer* is manifestly discourteous and unfair. It is not the policy of the Republican party to drive off any, but it welcomes all, and the *Pioneer* does itself injustice whenever it reflects on any gentleman of the Republican party, whether he came in '68 or '73.

It is not the purpose nor the desire of the *Era* to provoke a controversy with its able and worthy contemporary of the West, but it shall be the constant aim of the *Era* to heal all dissensions in the party, and support that party faithfully to the end.

In assailing the Revenue service as it has been administered in some sections, the *Era* has incurred the displeasure of some, but it has the satisfaction of knowing that the great body of the Republican party endorse and sustain its position. The editor of the *Pioneer* if he understood the matter fully would agree with the *Era* in the position it has taken.

The article cannot be as fully replied to here as was desired, some one having broken into the desk of the editor and stolen the *Pioneer* of the date alluded to.

The *Era* would invoke the *Pioneer* to harmony, and it beseeches that paper to abstain in future from unwarranted attacks on such Republicans as Major Smith, who, the *Pioneer* is assured, does not assume to own the Republican party; nor does he control or seek to control, the course of the *Era* as the *Pioneer* makes it appear.

Declaring that it has no quarrel with the *Pioneer*, the *Era* assures that paper of its hearty co-operation in any proper thing that will tend to the good of the Republican party; but in this matter of internal revenue, the *Era* does not propose to remain silent in the presence of abuses that have been so frequent on the part of some of the officers of that service.

Better Feeling—The Country United.

Late events, growing principally out of probable war with Spain have tended to illustrate the unity of feeling and national sentiment now so happily indicative of a real union between the North and the South.

Vice-President Stephens of the late Confederate States has been returned to the Congress of the United States, and on the suggestion of a Republican he was unanimously given his choice of a seat on the floor. Mr. Stephens called to see the President, and Grant met him at the door. Thus the first officer of the United States, and the second officer of the late Confederate States sat together in pleasant, profitable and gratifying conversation for hours. President Grant spoke to a Confederate officer in the highest and kindest terms of Mr. Stephens, and was glad he had been returned to Congress.

Don't this look like Union? Where, in all the history of the